



## King County

### Community Services Division

#### Department of Community and Human Services

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### **Veteran Citizens Levy Oversight Board (VCLOB) Meeting Summary October 17, 2013, 10am–12pm WorkSource Renton**

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Francisco Ivarra at 10:05am.

#### **Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:** Stan Gunno, Oren Hadaller, Doug Hoople, Francisco Ivarra-Chair, Robert Stephens, Jr., Curtis Thompson, Ray Tomlinson, Bill Wood

**Board Members Excused/Absent:** Kathy Lewis, Mary Kay Lewis, John Pruitt

**King County Staff Present:** Joel Estey, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS); Pat Lemus, DCHS; Nancy Loverin, DCHS; Laird Redway, DCHS; Linda Wells, DCHS; Kaetlin Miller, Public Health - Seattle & King County (PHSKC)

**Guests:** Dixon McReynolds III, Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), Dennis Brown, WDVA; Robert Sakay WDVA; Kimberly Doering, WDVA; Valinda Hayes-Martinez, WDVA; Scott Swaim, Valley Cities and Milspec.

#### **Review of Meeting Summary**

The July 18, 2013 meeting summary was approved with changes.

#### **Activity Updates**

##### **1.4. Military Sexual Trauma**

Linda Wells, King County Program Manager for Levy Strategy 1.4 Contracted Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Treatment/ Military Sexual Trauma, brought information to the VCLOB to address the 2012-2017 Service Improvement Plan (SIP) direction for this strategy, and the tentative plans to address the following language.

On page 28 of the 2012-2017 SIP it states:

*“As military sexual trauma (MST) is a leading cause of PTSD among women veterans, a workgroup will be convened consisting of MST survivor advocates, representatives of veterans service systems, sexual assault services providers, mental health and trauma experts, levy oversight board members, and others to explore needs and design a service response as appropriate. Possibilities include trainings for service providers and Veterans Service*

*Organizations using trainer and survivor co-leader models, or additional trauma counseling services.”*

Based on the SIP, the proposed activity for 2013-2015 is to provide MST-specific training to service providers and staff of agencies and organizations who work with or could work with survivors of MST.

The anticipated results of this training would be increased awareness of services and programs that could benefit survivors of MST and where to refer the survivors of MST for these services and programs. In addition, MST-specific benefits training will be provided to Veteran Service Officers so they are able to help survivors apply for and receive veterans' benefits and services for which they are eligible.

Twenty-Six Thousand dollars of the \$200,000 allocated for 2013 from the Supplemental Budget Ordinance 17407 was used to commission the MST Report entitled “*Status of Services in King County for Military Sexual Trauma Survivors: Findings, Gaps, and Recommendation*.” This report helped frame the proposed scope of the proposed request for proposals. The remaining balance of \$174,000 is proposed to be awarded through the Request for Proposals process for 2013 – 2014. The use of the 2014 allocation of \$200,000 is being discussed and will be presented to the Veterans Levy board when a proposed plan for its use has been completed.

#### Discussion

- There are other national and community providers involved in MST training. The County will continue to coordinate training development with the experts in the field.

#### Actions

- Board members requested the need based data recently provided by the VA, which Pat Lemus referred to during the discussion, which supports the MST work.
- Board members would like a copy of the final MST report.

### **1.2.B Veterans Information and Referral**

Dixon McReynolds, WDVA Program Manager for the King County Homeless and Incarcerated Services Program and Kimberly Doering provided both an update on the King County Veterans Information and Assistance Call Center. Levy funds, in partnership with the WDVA provide a call center that is a one-stop phone source for King County Veterans' information, resources and assistance. The call center is open Monday through Friday from 9am – 5pm and provides follow-up assistance.

#### Discussion

- Call Center staff work with callers to advise and assist them in applying for all of their potential VA benefits in addition to making referrals for other essential services.
- The call center resource and referral database is updated regularly and, at a minimum, annually.

### **1.6.A Military Family Outreach**

Dixon McReynolds, Valinda Hayes-Martinez and Robert Sakay also provided an update on the work of the Military Family Outreach Program. Military Family Outreach Specialists Robert and Valinda, connect military reserve members, members of the National Guard and veterans and their families to the services they need. They serve as the social service liaison between these individuals and families and the local service delivery systems. The program integrates extensively with local, state and federal service partners plus other levy funded programs including the King County Veterans Program, the King County Community Information Line (211), the Landlord Liaison project, Veterans Information and Assistance Call Center and the Veterans Reintegration Program.

### Discussion

- This program was originally designed to reach reservists and National Guard; however, it has expanded over time to include outreach to all veterans and their families.
- There was question about duplication of work with other outreach programs. Dixon responded that there is significant coordination with other like programs in order to reach all veterans efficiently.
- If a veteran presents with a substance abuse problem and is in crisis, WDVA immediately takes them to connect with services. If a veteran has a long standing mental health or chemical dependency issue but is not in crisis, WDVA works them directly with the VA, or if that is not successful, with other community resources to connect the veteran to needed services.
- Dixon McReynolds of the WDVA expressed its appreciation for the expansive outreach programs to all segments of our veteran population made possible by the VHS Levy.
- WDVA Military Family Outreach Specialist stated that there are more transgendered and female veterans coming in for services and she hopes to continue to grow the resource base for these veterans.

### **Chair's Report**

None

### **Capital Housing RFP Update**

As the VCLOB representative for the Capital Housing Request for Proposals review panel, Curtis provided an update to board members on the process.

### **King County Staff Report**

The next VCLOB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 14 from 10am – 12pm. Location is the Selig Conference Room, 500 Fifth Ave., Seattle, WA. [Staff note: This meeting was canceled.]

The final meeting of the year is a Joint Levy Oversight Board meeting to be held Thursday, December 5 from 10am – 12pm. The board will have the opportunity to review the Levy's 2013 Mid-Year Performance Evaluation and Financial Update report. Location is TBD.

The VHS Levy board operating procedures are now final and included in your meeting packet. Please be sure to replace the existing operating procedures in your board handbook, with these.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

- **Veterans Preference**  
Curtis brought a resolution proposal to the board on the topic of veterans' preference. As the KCVP Advisory Board had reviewed it earlier in the week and provided changes, Board Chair Francisco Ivarra recommended Curtis incorporate the changes; send it to Levy staff for distribution to board members prior to the next VCLOB meeting, and to add this item to the agenda for the November meeting.

- A board member raised a concern that a veteran in the HERO Internship program may be held back because of a union issue.
  - Action: Pat Lemus agreed to speak with the Human Resources Division (HRD) about this issue to see if the issue exists and where.

#### **Future Agenda Items**

- Robert would like to explore how to facilitate the VA ID card system.
- The Regional Veterans Initiative (RVI) will be meeting with VA senior leadership in December.

#### **Public Comment**

- Nancy Loverin, Manager of the King County Veterans Program mentioned that KCVP has HERO interns ready for work. Please see her if you have questions. Nancy was acknowledged for her work facilitating the Redmond Satellite office.
- The Regional Veterans Court will be hosting a one year anniversary and graduation ceremony on November 7 at 3:30pm. Scott Swaim will forward details to the board and invited them to attend.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4 pm.